

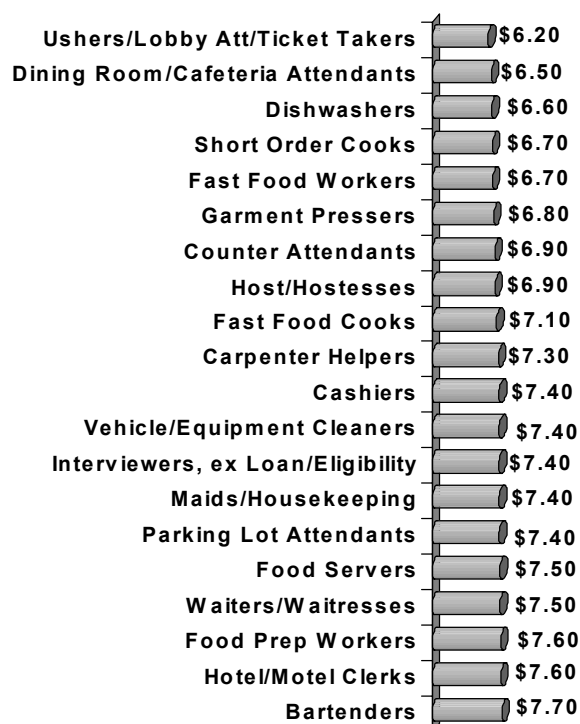
Wage\$: the High and the Low



New Data Available

2001 Utah Occupations with the Lowest Average Hourly Wage

By Austin Sargent



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services, *Utah Occupational Wages*, April 2002

Education Pays

The most recent data about Utah occupational wages reinforces the old adage "education pays". The labor market continues to pay premium wages for high-level marketable skills. While individuals with exceptional abilities may take alternative paths to career development, most people will find the door of opportunity opens through education, or specialized training.

Post-high school training continues to increase in importance as the main vehicle for the development of marketable skills demanded by businesses. Not only is it important to get an "education," but to ensure that the training provides

them with marketable skills. Another point to remember is that increasingly the new high-paying jobs require high levels of technical skill and ability. This also underscores the need for post-high school education or training.

Market Demand

Hourly wages in Utah vary widely and are dependent on market demand and the level of skill and training required. The 20 highest-paying occupations in Utah generally

require graduation from college with at least a Bachelor's degree. In many cases, additional training, certification, or professional licensing is also necessary. Besides formal training, some high-paying occupations also require management responsibilities.

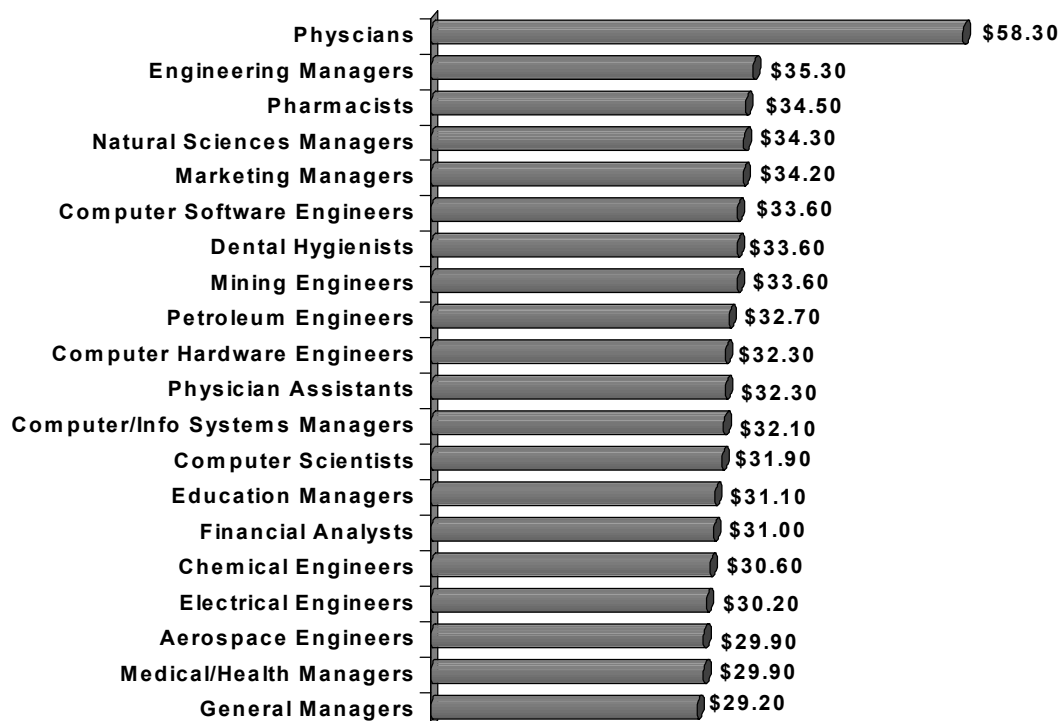
Most high-paying jobs are in management, business operations, financial, engineering, computers, and other professional and technical occupations.

Lower Training/Lower Wages

While occupations paying the highest wages reflect the need for more advanced training, the lowest-paying only require minimal formal education or training. The majority of these are concentrated in food preparation and service, retail sales, clerical, cleaning, and personal services.

For recently released Utah wage data, see our website at:
<http://wi.dws.state.ut.us/Owi/wages.asp>

2001 Utah Occupations with the Highest Average Hourly Wage



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services, *Utah Occupational Wages*, April 2002